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 Total 20 pages

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Strikes have far- reaching impact

SUE TIFFIN
Staff Reporter

Phase six of the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario job action was announced Feb. 24 offering a reprieve from strike action but noting teachers will do only their scheduled teaching and supervision assignments during their regular instruction time, and will not cover for absent colleagues if a supply teacher is not available. The next phase of strike protocol will begin March 9 if a deal has not yet been made between the ETFO and the provincial government.

The announcement of escalating job action for the country's largest education union comes after Ontario's entire public school system, including all seven schools in Haliburton County, closed down Friday, Feb. 21 when teachers and education workers representing the province's four major education unions walked off the job together after weeks of rotating strikes due to stalled negotiations with the province.

Nearly 200,000 teachers and education workers were all on the picket lines on

see **STRIKES** page 2



High school and elementary school teachers took to the sidewalks, marching in solidarity during a walkout on Friday, Feb. 21, steps from the Haliburton Highlands Secondary School in Haliburton. The walkout was part of a province-wide action after negotiations between education unions and the government broke down. /DARREN LUM Staff

Plan addresses strong criticism of HHHS's handling of roof leak

JENN WATT
Editor

A roof leak and subsequent evacuation of Highland Wood long-term care home last year, which relocated residents to facilities across the region, left some of those involved feeling traumatized and distrustful of Haliburton Highlands Health Services, according to a draft action plan released by the health services corporation last week.

The plan includes feedback gathered during sessions in December with staff, management and family members of residents at the Haliburton-based long-term care home facilitated by an impartial third party, and covers how HHHS handled communications, logistics, media, alternate lodgings, travel, renovation work, repatriation, labour relations, safety and other items.

Feedback was delivered to the health corporation's senior leadership team, which crafted an action plan with steps to be taken in the short-, middle-, and long-term to repair relationships, strengthen policy and be better prepared for future emergencies.

"I know that it was a really difficult experience for everybody who went

see **HONEST** page 4



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Strikes have ripple effects across county

from page 1

Friday, some joining together in mass rallies, after discussions between unions and the government broke down. The province-wide strike marks the first time since 1997 that members of all four major education unions have walked out on the same day.

Issues important to ETFO include protecting the kindergarten program, teacher compensation, smaller class sizes, and resources for students with special needs, while issues identified by the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation as important in their negotiations include class sizes, mandatory e-learning, and teacher compensation.

"Our ETFO members have made tremendous sacrifices to be on the picket line fighting for our world class education system," Karen Bratina, ETFO representative for TLDSB, told the *Echo*. "They are strong, they are encouraged and even more determined in holding this government accountable for their cuts to education. The resolve remains strong and they are very much appreciative of the support received from community businesses, community members and parents."

Bratina said teachers have been encountering support from others "at the gas station, grocery stores, liquor stores, general store as well," with employees at these businesses asking for buttons or offering their support, while parents and community members have been delivering homemade cookies and squares as well as hot drinks. Businesses and community buildings around Archie Stouffer Elementary School, including the library, have allowed those on the strike lines to use washrooms, parking lots and inside space in order to warm up.

"When speaking with people in the community they give their support to teachers and encouragement to fight against what the government is trying to do," said Bratina. "Last Thursday an elderly couple stopped and gave a teacher money to buy coffee/doughnuts from Tim's. The teacher didn't want to take the money but they were adamant. Students and retired teachers come with goodies, hot beverages and support. Some have brought their own signs and walked with us, some have written letters to newspapers."

Colin Matthew, president of OSSTF District 15, told the *Echo* he has visited picket lines on each of the strike days, and said: "Educators would rather be in class but they are resolved to fight the cuts Doug Ford has imposed through regulation going back to March 15, 2019 and want to negotiate a deal that protects public education." Like Bratina, he noted that people have brought food and warm drinks to the strike line, have expressed their support while driving by and those walking the line have been offered washroom access, warming spots and donations of food from local businesses.

"The support from individuals and businesses has been overwhelming," he said. "If there's a bright spot it's that the public understands the importance of the issue and seems to be joining us in protecting public education."

Parents working around disruption

Friday's strike resulted in more than two million students in the province – including 1,556 students in Haliburton County and 15,743 in the Trillium Lakelands District School Board – being out of class. ETFO, representing approximately 90 elementary teachers in Haliburton, has held six strike days since January thus far, while approximately 50 teachers and professional staff representing HHSS, AETC and virtual learning teachers have participated in four rotating strike days since December.

Emily Thackeray, who works at Minden Animal Hospital and has two elementary school-aged children, said her employer has been "very understanding," as Thackeray and her co-workers manage different schedules on strike days.

"We (mostly) all have children and some of us need to wait on child care opening, or understanding that we



Teachers and supporters brought flags and signs to the picket line on County Road 21 in Haliburton on Friday, Feb. 21. The strike, which shut down all publicly-funded schools in Ontario, was held locally near Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. /DARREN LUM Staff

may need to be travelling out of our way to drop them off to family members, sometimes setting us back from being to work on time," she said.

Thackeray works full-time and her husband Mike Fisher operates his own business. "Scheduling has been an issue between figuring out who can watch the kids while working – daycare, grandparents, dad ... while all trying to schedule around other appointments," she said, noting it hasn't been easy to manage. "There has been lots of picking up/dropping off kids mid-day during these strike days ... The stressful part is making sure everyone [in the family] knows what's happening on any given strike day."

Jane Isbister, whose son is in Grade 4 where he has two EAs and daily nursing in what she said is a "good class environment," said that during strike days she has been lucky to have access to respite workers who are supply EAs, though it's costly.

In January, the Ford government announced it will offer parents with children in junior kindergarten to Grade 7 or children with special needs up to Grade 12 or age 21, compensation between \$25 and \$60 per day on strike days in which schools are closed.

"It's expensive as we pay a fair wage for a child with [his] needs, so the stipend from the government covers a fraction of what's needed – \$130 for a day, plus the flexibility to work from home to do the nursing tasks related to meds and g-tube feeding," said Isbister.

She said the strike action means that her family has run out of special services at home funding, which helps families caring for a child with a developmental or physical disability, until April, and has been challenging to manage around both local and out-of-town doctor appointments as "another layer of logistics on the plate." "And I 100 per cent support the issues around special education inclusion resources," she said. "The miracle of public education requires the people resources to make education accessible to all."

Isbister said that without the right respite support, she and her co-parent would be taking vacation or a leave. Despite these challenges, she supports what the teachers are fighting for.

"Support in classes," she reiterated. "I'd keep this up for a much longer time, and am trying to coordinate getting [her son] to the picket line too."

Community impact

Local businesses who are open to students for elective and extracurricular activities and field trips have been affected as job action escalates.

"Despite significant effort put forth by teachers some public schools have not been allowed to move forward with trips to Wanakita this winter," said Cam Green, program manager of YMCA Wanakita. "Many of those schools have sought out alternative dates later in the year in the hopes that [a] resolution will be reached by then."

Chris Bishop at Sir Sam's Ski & Ride said that the resort is affected by schools not having an elective in place for skiing this year. In the past the Eagle Lake-based resort would have approximately 20 schools from within a one-to-two-hour driving radius visit midweek, groups for approximately 20 days at 100 students per day, which he said represented about six per cent of the resort's total

business. For resorts closer to the Greater Toronto Area and major populations, the percentage would make up 50 to 70 per cent of their total business, he said. Sir Sam's has offered a discounted rate to families to encourage them to visit still, and has extended that offer to strike days as well.

"We made the offer because we need to make up some lost revenue due to the fact that there are no school electives for skiing this year," he said. "We felt that some families would pull their kids out of school for the day and come as a family to enjoy a day on the slopes at an economical price that would be similar to what they would pay if they came with the school. Same scenario for strike days. ... We will not make up all the revenue lost to the strike actions but anything helps."

Bishop said without that business, the resort would have to look at reducing staff hours.

"The teacher/government issue is having a serious negative effect on the whole ski industry, many resorts are laying off staff and reducing their hours," he said. "I have talked to some resorts that state their business is down 40-70 per cent."

Bratina said she was sorry to hear the job action had negatively affected some businesses. "The fault lies with this government, we can't accept the cuts to education," she said. "Teachers across this province have no choice but to fight for their students. I would ask these business owners to contact Laurie Scott or Doug Ford and demand that they invest in education and get back to the table to negotiate a fair deal for everyone."

Other Haliburton County-based businesses and enterprises have also offered "strike day" activities or events.

Several families took advantage of an Outdoor Fun Day event offered on one strike day by Medeba, which plans to offer more if need be.

"We have the facilities and the staff available and know that it is hard for parents to find ways to keep their children busy, especially for working parents," said Katie Stiver, office manager.

The Haliburton County Public Library offered a "pop-up mini maker" activity session in which kids and their families could make buttons or use 3D pens on Feb. 21 at the Minden library branch but otherwise the branch services librarian Erin Kernohan-Already said "programs are scheduled and budgeted for already and we don't have the capacity to run additional programs unfortunately."

"That said, we have still noticed it has been busier at many of our branches on strike days," said Kernohan-Berning. "The public library is one of the last spaces in society where people can go without the need for a transaction, where people are welcome to just be in the building whether reading, working, using the internet or socializing."

In Haliburton, Sharp Electric, Outdoors Plus, the Trillium Lakelands Elementary Teacher local, Assante Financial Management Ltd. and the Co-Operators Insurance have sponsored public skates at AJ LaRue arena, while the outdoor rink at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre has reportedly been used more by families during strike days.

Further information regarding job action or potential agreements between education unions and the government will be published to the *Haliburton Echo* Facebook page or included in upcoming issues of the paper.

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Sandra Dupret, Fleming College's VP student experience, was the MC of the Pride flag raising at Haliburton School of Art + Design on Feb. 19. Speakers included Fleming College president Maureen Adamson, diversity and inclusion student success co-ordinator Debbie Harrison, and HSAD dean Angela Stukator. /JENN WATT Staff

Flag represents commitment to inclusion, diversity

JENN WATT

Editor

Fleming College president Maureen Adamson said she was honoured to be at the inaugural Pride flag raising at Haliburton School of Art + Design, but that she wished it would have happened sooner.

Referencing incidents that had happened in the Haliburton community, without going into specific detail, she said the college wanted to show its support for diversity and inclusion.

"We stand with you, we stand beside you and we stand for you," she said during a speech to a crowd gathered outside the front entrance of the Haliburton campus on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The Pride flag has also been raised at the Peterborough and Lindsay campuses of Fleming College. Adamson told the *Echo* that last week was chosen for the flag raising to fit with the school's schedule.

"Pride Week typically occurs in the summer, when many of our students have gone, so we plan events such as our Pride flag raising when students are on campus and can participate. We also wanted to host the event close to Family Day, because diversity and inclusion are the foundation of family, and family can mean different things to different people," she said via email following the flag raising event.

Fleming College offers support for

LGBTQ students and staff through a variety of resources, Debbie Harrison, diversity and inclusion student success co-ordinator, said. She highlighted the work of the Name Change Clinic, which is in collaboration with the paralegal program at the college, supporting students who may need to change their name due to a gender transition.

"This is also personally very moving for me, I've grown up in a small community too on a farm with a gay brother who came out as a teenager and as his older sister and ally, I've seen his struggles to be safe and to be equal and to be welcome in all places and it hasn't always been the case for him and I'm very proud that we're making a proud statement today," Harrison said.

HSAD's dean, Angela Stukator said that the flag celebrated "who we are as a school."

"The flag will fly as a daily reminder that Pride is literally a feeling of being good and worthy. It's a visible symbol of our support, our celebration of diversity and our commitment to inclusivity," she said.

Adamson and Andrea Roberts, mayor of Dysart et al, raised the flag together to finish the ceremony. The MC was Sandra Dupret, VP student success, and former dean of HSAD.

Both the Canadian flag and the Pride flag will fly outside the Haliburton campus building.



Above, the Pride flag flies outside Fleming College's Haliburton School of Art + Design on Feb. 19 following a special ceremony at the campus attended by staff, students and community members.

Left, Fleming College president Maureen Adamson, left, and Andrea Roberts, Dysart et al mayor, raise the Pride Flag over Haliburton School of Art + Design on Feb. 19. This is the first time the flag has been raised at the Haliburton campus. /JENN WATT Staff



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Fleming College

Honest comments essential to moving forward, CEO says

from page 1

through it and ... the feedback was hard to read, but at the same time, I'm really glad that we went through this process," HHHS president and CEO Carolyn Plummer told the *Echo* following the release of the action plan. "... I really appreciated how open and honest and frank people were because ... the only way to move forward is to really address the things that are bothering people the most and in reading this [the action plan] it seems people were very frank and honest in what they had to say."

Plenty of those frank comments were included in the document, grouped in a chart outlining how HHHS is intending to address issues that arose. An offer to participate in the focus groups was sent out to all staff, family members and residents who were involved in the evacuation and more than 30 provided feedback including between 12 and 15 staff, about eight members of management, eight family members and one resident. HHHS administration was not provided with any of their names.

Feedback includes statements such as "concerns raised about 'coming into work at a place they no longer trust,'" and "very traumatic event and seems like there was very little management of the trauma." Some said they were still too traumatized to talk about what happened.

It was noted that "every session had tears" and comments included ongoing anger and low morale.

"Across audiences there is a sense that answers have not been provided, that accountability has not been accepted and that there was a cover-up," the document states.

Plummer said she understands that the slow release of information through what was a nearly four-month process from February to June of 2019 left people feeling that something was being hidden from them. At the time, there were rumours that HHHS was aware that the roof was in need of repair long before they scheduled a replacement.

A press release issued in February of last year stated that an assessment done two years prior recommended replacing roofs between 2018 and 2021. A public tender was issued for Hyland Crest long-term care home in Minden and Highland Wood in May of 2018 and the contract awarded in July of the same year. Hyland Crest was scheduled first for replacement, with the process going forward in September of 2018. Bad weather caused a rescheduling of Highland Wood's roof replacement to the spring of 2019.

Following the roof leak, an insurance adjuster was called in, but it took time for his arrival because of other similar claims across the province, Plummer said. However, that delay caused a subsequent delay in the release of information.



A draft action plan released by Haliburton Highlands Health Services last week details criticisms of the health corporation's handling of the Highland Wood long-term care home roof leak and evacuation and outlines lessons learned and how HHHS plans to move ahead. /JENN WATT Staff

“

We want to be able to make sure that we're taking what we've learned and putting it to good use.

— Carolyn Plummer

"The more time that goes by without answers, the more it seems like people wonder. I would probably be wondering too: what's really happening and why aren't they saying anything? Well, the honest answer is, we weren't saying anything because we didn't have anything to say," Plummer said.

As part of the draft action plan, an excerpt of an evaluation of the roof done by the forensics engineer was released. In part, it reads: "There were no ongoing signs of water infiltration or roof leaks, there are no signs of early failure or ongoing water seepage below the roof deck. There are no signs of previous water infiltration, and or corrosion of the steel decking. There was no warning with this sudden and accidental event."

It goes on to say: "... The roof failure at the Haliburton Highlands Health Services facility was sudden; I have been investigating roof failures and have been involved in roof replacements/assessments for nearly four decades. I want to assure you, this event occurred very early on within the service life of the roof, and occurred without the normal signs of early failure. No one within your facil-

ity is at fault and certainly should not be blamed for this unfortunate incident."

A build-up of ice on the roof, caused by freezing and thawing throughout the winter, followed by a sudden melt, was deemed to have caused the extensive leaking.

Those surveyed also indicated things felt chaotic and that not enough information was available. A lack of point person or method of asking questions and receiving prompt responses caused problems, respondents said.

"A new emergency/continuity plan for such an event in future needs to cover at least: emergency evacuation procedures including belongings, food, equipment etc; emergency committee – assigned roles and responsibilities; testing of defined plan – scenario testing and mock evacuations; resident move triage; resident care monitoring; communication plan for all audiences, using a number of mediums; workforce plan including some proactive work to establish options and involving union; mental health supports for all stakeholders; travel and reimbursement policies," the plan's overall summary reads.

While emergency plans regarding evacuations and infrastructure failure existed prior to the Highland Wood roof leak, Plummer said there are some things that you can't be fully prepared for.

"What's really difficult to prepare for is what the experience is like when it's really happening, to deal with human beings who are being taken away from their home and staff who are being taken away from their workplace with no answers," she said.

Ongoing issues were also "amplified" by the situation, the document says, list-

ing feedback including lack of communications and contact with manager; lack of HR expertise; chronic understaffing at long-term care; and a feeling that the Ministry of Health is out of touch without proper approaches to funding long-term care, buildings that are integrated, and required proactive maintenance.

On a positive note, the document says that there is interest from people in participating in making change, that staff and management felt they came together as a team, that a better plan can be developed and there's interest in helping, that front-line staff is appreciated, and that more can be done to help what is a small facility with limited resources.

Plummer said that she wants to move forward by seeking input widely and regularly. The plan was presented at three meetings with stakeholder groups held on Feb. 19 and 20, which garnered additional suggestions and what is now a draft action plan will soon be finalized. However, the CEO said the intention was for the plan to be a living document, open to change as the need arises.

She intends to check in regularly to evaluate how HHHS is doing in moving through its action items.

The action plan was made public because the corporation wants people to know they take the feedback seriously, Plummer said.

"We want to be able to make sure that we're taking what we've learned and putting it to good use in making improvements so we can be better prepared in the future," she said, "and we know that's important to our residents, to our families, to our staff, but we also think it's equally important to our community."

Prom/grad clothing event moves to Lochlin

This year's Make Dreams Come is returning to where it all started six years ago: the Lochlin Community Centre.

Organizer Jenn Abbott said this location is more convenient to her as a mother with children and a new baby.

The giveaway event is open to Grade 8 grads and students going to prom. It offers nearly everything a person could need for a formal ensemble for free.

Held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the days for the giveaways are April 18 and May 16 at the community centre, located at 4713 Gellert Road, Minden.

Any questions contact Jenn Abbott at 705-455-3323.

— Staff

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The HHSS library has books by Black-Canadian authors on display during this, Black History Month, to recognize the contribution made by Black-Canadians in the literary world, and also encourage reading. /Submitted photo

HHSS library introduces more Black-Canadian authors

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Within days of a display dedicated to works by Black-Canadians being set up in the library at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School to recognize Black History Month, *Brother*, by David Chariandry, was signed out by a student.

The display will grow, after teacher-librarian Mary Cannon realized that despite having a good collection in general, the high school was lacking in books representing Black-Canadians or Black-Canadian authors.

"We chose to focus on fiction written by Black-Canadian authors for our library display, and actually were only able to come up with five titles in our collection of approximately 4,000 fiction titles," said Cannon. "We have a lot of great, current works written by Black-American authors, but not nearly as many Canadian resources (obviously). The same was true of our biography section. Many titles of inspirational Black-Americans, but not many of Canadians - in fact just two, one about Jerome Iginla and one about Viola Desmond."

Besides *Brother*, the HHSS library had *Field Guide to the North American* by Ben Philippe, *The Book of Negroes* and *Any Known Blood* by Lawrence Hill and *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan in its collection.

"So, my co-op student Brooke Billings and I put the display together, have ordered some more books to help round out the section, and are now aware of a bit of a lack in our collection," said Cannon. "Which I suppose, after all, is the purpose of events like Black History Month."

Cannon has added *Half-Blood Blues* by Edugyan, Canada Reads 2020 long-list

contender *The Youth of God* by Hassan Ghedi Santur and *Fate of Flames*, a young adult fantasy by Sarah Roughley, hoping that the themes of the books, which deal with Black historical themes or experiences, might be appealing to the HHSS student population. She'd like to add more biographies as well, after discussion with fellow teachers who might have some ideas of what students are interested in based on conversations that have come from classroom learning.

"There are so many things you can do, you can put up resources about Martin Luther King, and talk about the history of oppression on this continent, but I feel like kids know about that, and it's not news to them," said Cannon. She noted the 2020 theme for Black History Month is "Canadians of African Descent: Going forward, guided by the past."

"I just like the idea of celebrating achievement," she said. "I just wanted to say this is what Black-Canadians are doing in our community, these authors have written these books and you might want to read them, they're awesome books."

Further reading is available as well in the Haliburton County Public Library collection:

The rage of dragons / Evan Winter
Frying Plantain: stories / Zalika Reid-Benta
The skin we're in / Desmond Cole
The motorcyclist / George Elliott Clarke
The hidden keys / André Alexis
The Thunder Beneath Us / Nicole Blades
Theory / Dionne Brand
The polished hoe: a novel / Austin Clarke
Washington Black / by Esi Edugyan
Independence: a novel / Cecil Foster
The illegal: a novel / Lawrence Hill
The Salt Roads / Nalo Hopkinson
The return / Dany Laferrière; translated by David Homel
Monoceros / a novel by Suzette Mayr

Town hall seeks input on destination development

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Anyone with an interest in the county's tourism activities may wish to attend a town hall meeting at the Haliburton Legion on the evening of Tuesday, March 3.

The County of Haliburton has hired tourism marketing firm MMGY NextFactor to compile the plan, designed to help further map the sustainable development of the Haliburton Highlands as a tourist destination.

"The destination development plan is a continuation of the stakeholder survey and workshop conducted in spring 2019 by MMGY NextFactor," county director Amanda Virtanen told the paper. "They will take all of that input from last year, and couple it with the information they are gathering now via a series of 1:1 sessions, focus groups and a town hall. It's so important for as much of the community to weigh in as possible - not just tourism-related businesses - as this plan will help shape the future of the Haliburton Highlands as a whole. While the County of Haliburton is 'hosting' this process, our hope is that the entire community feels a sense of ownership of this plan. We are fortunate to be working with an independent party in the formation of the plan and feel that provides an unbiased

approach for many voices to be heard."

The town hall meeting, open to all members of the public, will take place at the Haliburton Legion at 719 Mountain Street in Haliburton Village on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m.

In addition to the town hall meeting, a series of focus groups aimed at particular groups will also take place on March 3 and March 4. These sessions will also take place at the Haliburton Legion, and it's asked that those wishing to attend preregister.

A focus group meeting for accommodators and restaurateurs to provide input will take place on March 3 at 1 p.m. and registration can be done at www.eventbrite.ca/e/94655305567.

A focus group session for tour operators and experience providers will be held on March 4 at 9 a.m. and can be registered for by visiting www.eventbrite.ca/e/94657971541.

A session intended for community leaders will also take place on March 4 at noon and can be registered for at www.eventbrite.ca/e/94658539239.

Another focus group session, designed to attain input from lake and cottage associations, will take place March 4 at 3 p.m. and registration is available at www.eventbrite.ca/e/94658924391.

The destination development plan, a \$60,000 project for the county, is expected to be finalized by the summer.

Echo receives honours from newspaper association competition

Haliburton Echo photographer Darren Lum is one of three finalists for the Photographer of the Year award and columnist Steve Galea is up for the Humour Columnist of the Year honour in the Better Newspapers Competition run by the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.

The award nominations were announced online by the OCNA on Feb. 14.

The *Echo* was also given an honourable mention in the arts and entertainment category for the article "Mural brings memories to life at Highland Wood," by Jenn Watt about the art project at the long-term care home, and in the best news photo category for an image captured by Darren Lum during the groundbreaking ceremony of the Hydro One expansion project on County Road 21.

The *Echo's* sister paper, the *Minden Times*, is in the top three in the feature writing category for "Cat Angels save lives, talk solutions," by Sue Tiffin and

Tiffin also received an honourable mention for her story "Minden Seniors Shuffleboard Club going strong," in the sports and recreation story category.

The first, second and third placements are revealed at a gala event April 3 in Vaughan.



Darren Lum's photo from the groundbreaking at the Hydro One station received honourable mention in the OCNA competition. Lum has been nominated for Photographer of the Year.

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points of view



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Published by White Pine Media Corp



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Learning lessons

“WE ARE NOT asked for our ideas and input on what could be done,” “Organization seemed to be hiding behind insurance coverage,” “Overwhelmed trying to meet the needs of 30 people undergoing a major change in their lives,” “A basic necessity – roof over family members heads – was neglected,” “Feel reimbursement was promised and not delivered,” “Very traumatic event and seems like there was very little management of the trauma” – those were just a few of the many negative comments listed in the draft action plan released by Haliburton Highlands Health Services last week.

The plan is a first step in addressing concerns and complaints that arose from the nearly four-month evacuation of Highland Wood long-term care home from February to June of 2019. More than 30 people representing staff, management, family members of residents and one resident of Highland Wood participated in focus groups with a third-party facilitator in December to debrief about what was a deeply distressing time for many involved.

Most in the community will be familiar with what happened at Highland Wood: a roof leak discovered in early February led to the evacuation of the home, which is attached to the Haliburton hospital. Examination of the leak found that it was unsafe for residents to move back in until the roof had been replaced and since the leak happened during a par-

ticularly bad winter, the replacement wasn't complete until May, with residents back on June 3.

During that time, rumours swirled about the state of the roof and the handling of the evacuation. Families of residents were justifiably upset that their loved ones were being moved far from their previous home. There was confusion over transportation services and reimbursement for families' expenses. Staff didn't feel supported, families didn't feel informed, everyone was worried

for the health and wellbeing of Highland Wood's residents.

This action plan exposes many of those rumours and addresses them. Likely it will not be enough for some people who are still working to move forward from a very difficult time. However, the document is refreshingly honest and includes concrete steps to be taken to begin to set

things right.

Among next steps: developing a more robust plan that vastly improves communications, that advocates for change in procedure, and that provides better support for those who have experienced trauma.

The best thing anyone can do when things go wrong is to examine the issues, learn lessons and work to make amends. The HHHS action plan seeks to begin that process, but it is only the first step. What comes next may be even more difficult, as plans are put into action and the corporation seeks to address deeply felt pain and lingering mistrust.



jenn
watt

Editorial



Branch

by Darren Lum

Stop

PART OF THE yoga and meditation tradition is about taking time to stop. Everyone needs to stop on a regular basis. When you stop, space is created and in that space you can honestly see what is going on in your heart, your mind, your body and your spirit. Many of us are so hard on ourselves, or are so busy managing work and family and friends, or are so caught up in world events and concerned about the future, or are just tired and need some deep rest.

When we take time to stop, our whole system (body, mind, spirit) can rest, recover and in the clarity of the quiet perhaps choose to do some things that are helpful or beneficial for our daily lives. We can honestly see what is going on and then make choices.

There are many ways to practice stopping and restorative yoga is one of them. I personally love this practice because it is a passive style of yoga that uses props such as blankets, bolsters, pillows, straps and blocks. The poses are all done lying on your back or side and there may be one or two seated poses. Props provide all kinds of modifications for people who have any movement restrictions or injuries. The instructor helps each person get settled into the pose and then each pose is held for five to 10 minutes which gives the person time to rest deeply, breathe and practice being present with all that shows up.

Restorative yoga is “active relaxation” and is suitable for all levels of

ability. It is ideal for people who want to slow down, are working with injuries or are feeling the need for deep rest. It is also a great complement to a more active practice. I always feel quiet, relaxed and settled when I leave a restorative class. As our amazing county continues to grow and new people arrive, I am happy to welcome another yoga instructor.

Donna Raetsen is a qualified yoga instructor and has found restorative and gentle yoga to what she loves to teach. Donna leads from the heart. She is “authentic and free, her soulful spirit is guided by caring and gratitude.” She's deeply devoted to nurturing wellness from within, offering a tranquil practice that soothes body, mind and spirit.

She is honoured to have completed the highly regarded Ahimsa Yogayama training and internship with the remarkable JP Tamblyn, and specialized restorative program with the inspiring David Good. Off her mat, Donna is a certified forest and nature therapy guide, energy medicine enthusiast – and proud mom of two happy adults.

Donna is offering a restorative yoga series at Blue Sky Yoga Studio on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. March 4, 11, 18 and 25. Ten people will be accepted and the small group ensures lots of personal attention. The cost is \$60. To register or if you have any questions you can contact Donna at natureismyplace@gmail.com. Welcome to the county, Donna!

Tales from
the great



lynda
shadbolt

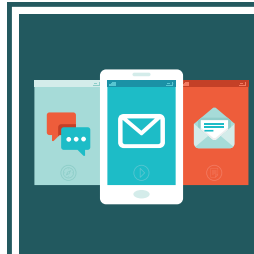
Green meadow

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Have a thought, comment or opinion
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Send a letter to the editor to
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points of view

Hooked on fishing

SOME PEOPLE wonder about fishing and how it grabs hold of a person. I think I can offer a little insight into this.

You see, the other day, while standing in ankle deep slush and fishing on a windy, desolate backwoods lake for trout that never showed up, it occurred to me that, regardless of the circumstance, I was hooked. Luckily, the hook hadn't gone in past the barb. So with a little wiggling I was able to remove the lure from my lip.

You're probably wondering how I managed to hook myself. Well, it was one of those things that happens thousands of times a day. I had just tied the lure to my line but needed to cut the tag end off the knot – and let's just say, I got a bit too close. On the plus side, it confirmed my hook was sharp. Also, a couple of approaching anglers realized that it would probably be best if they didn't fish too close to me.



steve
galea

Loon Tales

Here's the important thing though. At no point did I consider that a fishing spoon hanging from my bottom lip might be a deal breaker in my relationship with fishing. In fact, if not for the medical implications of having a three-inch silver William's Wabler hanging from my mouth, I would have been happy to leave it there. If nothing else, it's a conversation starter.

True, it would make kissing a bit more complicated. Yet, as any angler knows, this has to be weighed against the many compelling reasons to leave a lure hanging from your mouth.

As obvious as they are, I will repeat them. First, I would have always had a lure handy, should an opportunity to fish show up unexpectedly. That in itself seemed reason enough to leave the lure where it was. Unfortunately, as luck would have it, I needed that lure at that moment and didn't have a spare one in my tackle box, so I removed it.

Had I left it in, I think it is reasonable to suggest that people around town would now be referring to me as that cool guy who is always ready to fish, rather than all those other names. And, I have no doubt the trend would have soon caught on too.

Also, I have a nagging suspicion that having a flashy fishing lure hanging from my lower lip might have set me apart from the crowd – this time in a good way.

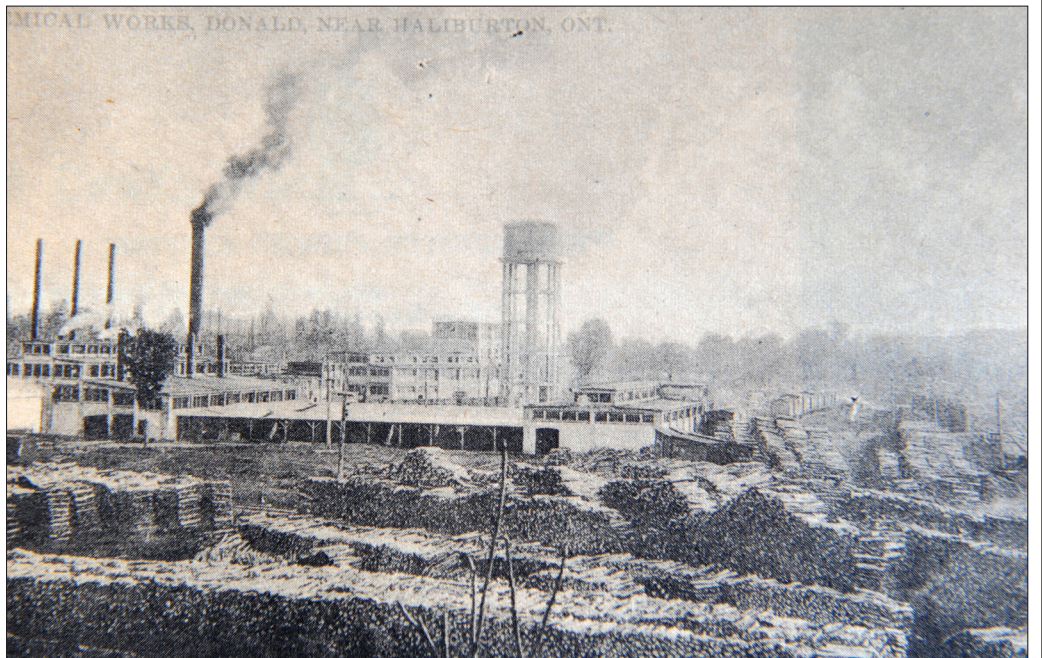
Would it have been too ostentatious? Perhaps. But that's not to say that I couldn't have toned it down on casual days by replacing the silver lure with, say, a rubber frog imitation or even a natural coloured rubber worm. I am, after all, not without fashion sense.

The point is, I was hooked. And when an angler is hooked he has two choices. He can either play it cool and act like there is not a treble hook and accompanying lure lodged in his lower lip, or he can remove it and use a nail clipper to cut off the tag end of the knot.

This time, I chose the latter. But, again, only because I needed to use that lure.

Also, I am writing this column to clear up any rumours before they ever gain traction. So, to be clear, despite how relaxed I appeared after the incident, I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth.

If that were the case, I would have had two of those lures.



pic of the past

The Charcoal and Chemical Industry began operation in Donald in 1908, later purchased by Standard Chemical Company Ltd and in operation until 1945. The store, post office and houses were the property of the company. According to information by Ron J. Curry provided to the *Echo* in 1974, the company paid \$5.50 per cord of split maple during the 1930s. "The cutting of many thousands of cords of wood was helpful to the area economy," he wrote.

letters to the editor

Winter of our discontent

To the Editor,

Do you remember when Canada was a friendly, kind, compassionate country, respected in the world that way? When people said "Sorry" when they bumped into you or "How are you today eh"? Now one is afraid to say anything for fear of offending someone. Our railways connected our country from "sea to shining sea," and we were prosperous. Now look at us!

A group of Indigenous people who cannot sort out their own tribal chief battles have been holding the rest of us hostage for weeks while the government decides who is responsible to settle the issue of the blockage of the railways, roads, sea terminals, city streets, and now the U.S.A. borders. I have emailed both federal and provincial governments and they "passed the buck" though now the federal government says it will try to resolve the issue! One of their Mohawk chiefs recommends that the blockades be removed in good faith as the economy is suffering, people are losing their jobs, food is rotting in freight cars, heating fuel, goods for construction, and other necessary items are not reaching their destinations. We have read their signs and heard their shouts. Now he is

reprimanded by the other chiefs for his common sense approach.

Others have joined the protests to wave signs and shout slogans when they really have no knowledge of the real issues. One should be informed before they join such groups to augment the size of protesters and create more chaos. The use of children is also concerning as they are our future and should know what they are representing. The wearing of masks or bandana face coverings make it appear an illegal protest and one does not want to be recognized! If you really believe in a cause you should show your face as you demonstrate!

This country does not belong to any one group of individuals. Why can't we sit down and talk peacefully as Canadians? As the great song says, "This Land Is My Land, This Land Is Your Land, from Bonavista to Vancouver Island, From the Arctic Circle to the Great Lake Waters, This Land Is Made for You and Me." Why can't we keep it that way?

Lois Rigney
Minden Hills



Bird banter

This pair of ravens seems to be deep in meaningful conversation on a tree branch near Tory Hill. / Photo by Belinda Gallagher



Group brainstorms potential future arts centre

On Feb. 19, the Haliburton Highlands Arts Centre Foundation hosted a consultation on options for developing a new arts facility in Haliburton County. The event was facilitated by U-Links and attended by community stakeholders and Fleming Advanced Environmental Planning Case Studies students, who are undertaking research for the HHACF. /Submitted



Ken Loney and Jack Brezina participate in a creative exercise.

Volunteers with a skill for fixing needed for next Repair Café

Clothing, small appliances, old clocks, bikes, jewelry, electronics, lamps, lamps and more lamps in need of some tender care are being gathered in anticipation of the second SIRCH Repair Café event, and volunteers who like tinkering, pulling apart and figuring out are welcome to come join and be matched with something they might fix.

After the success of the first Repair Café event last month resulted in happy

participants with a diverse assortment of newly-patched, mended or otherwise repaired items, SIRCH Community Services is looking to add to their team of volunteers with additional fixers, demonstrators and general support help for the second café.

"There is minimal commitment and it's a very fun and rewarding initiative to be part of," said Chris Varga, Repair Café coordinator. "If you are a student wishing to

pursue a technical career, a retired expert in your field, or anyone in between, you will really enjoy being part of the SIRCH Repair Café initiative."

Varga said the event also offers a great opportunity for volunteers to promote their existing fixing/upcycling business, learn about the possibilities of starting one, network with likeminded people and find talent.

The second SIRCH Repair Café of six to

be held between January and August 2020 takes place at Archie Stouffer Elementary School at 12 Vintage Crescent on March 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about the event, see the video from the first Repair Café event at www.sirch.on.ca/repaircafe. To get involved, apply online at the same link, or email organizers at info@sirch.on.ca.

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Hospice volunteers provide care and compassion

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Sometimes it's as simple as making someone a cup of tea, says hospice volunteer Tina Koskelo.

Koskelo is one of more than 50 dedicated volunteers who are the backbone of the hospice services in Haliburton County. A resident of the Highlands since 2015, she encourages other people to join her in the fulfilling experience of providing care for those facing a life-threatening or serious illness, focusing on quality of life and providing emotional and practical support.

Koskelo said it's rewarding working with people.

"The reward of just being with the people. Time spent is very real, dear, and has left an impact. I remember them all," she wrote in an email.

After 13 years of volunteering, she is passionate about hospice care and what it does for clients and their caregivers.

"I'm just left with the great privilege of what it is to do this. To be able to do this. To be invited into people's homes and to witness the love [that] is in their lives or the messiness that is in their lives. That is our human experience. So what may have started as a curiosity has certainly evolved into the great privilege of the work itself," she said.

Although in some instances her time spent is just that, time with a client, and doesn't have to be anything more than just making a pot of tea for someone and being willing to listen.

The hospice program is a partnership between Community Support Services and the Central East Local Health Integration Network, which delivers programs offering compassionate care and support for people facing a life-limiting illness.

Stephanie MacLaren, vice-president community programs for Haliburton Highlands Health Services, of which Community Support Services is a part, said a strong hospice program provides community members with a holistic approach to care at a time when they need it most.

"Our hospice program is a vital component of our overall hospice palliative care program that provides support and improves the quality of life of our community members and their families facing life-limiting illness. In addition to palliative care supports provided by our health-care providers, the volunteer visiting hospice program provides psychological, social, spiritual support to clients and their families at all stages of illness, grief and bereavement," she wrote in an email.

"In a rural community such as ours, where isolation often accompanies periods of illness, the ability to connect to a supportive volunteer is of heightened importance. It is also a tremendously meaningful way for volunteers to contribute to overall health and well-being of their community. In addition to [one-to-one] and group support provided by our volunteers, the presence of a strong hospice program in our community expands the conversation around death and dying in a manner that de-stigmatizes an uncomfortable topic for many."

A longtime cottager, Koskelo is now retired. She had worked in business for 10 years, followed by being a parent and then, most recently, a yoga instructor.

She's been a hospice volunteer on and off since 2007 while living in Toronto, and said she started because she was curious about dying and death.

Death was something she thought of because of her many years of meditative inquiry and yoga.

"Looking at death sort of comes as a natural extension of that," she said. "For me at that time I was just very curious and wanted to explore that. Hospice was a way to do that and I became a volunteer with hospice Toronto."

She's not quite certain about where her interest in hospice came from other than reading an article or learning about a person with an end of life scenario.

"People come [to volunteer with hospice] for many different reasons. My reason and my experiences is just one experience. Many people come for different reasons. It can be they experienced a death and want to know more or they had a good experience or they had a bad experience. Sometimes they've experienced hospice volunteers in their home and want to turn around and offer that same thing," she said.

Much of her volunteering is in the area of home hospice, which means she visits clients in their home.

She's learned everyone needs help. This includes care giving for clients at the end of their life and for the caregivers, who need a break. Helping doesn't require any expertise, she said. It's all about being present and embracing the life of another person.

"Just being with life in a very intimate way, really, but



Volunteers Kim Kelly, left, and Marybeth Wilson, sing to a client, as part of hospice bedside singing. Volunteers are needed for all of the hospice programs at Haliburton Highlands Health Services. /Submitted by Brigitte Gebauer

it's also very ordinary. The stuff of hospice is very ordinary in many ways. It can be very practical. Very simple. So, it's very ... it's a very rewarding thing. Anybody who volunteers at anything gets something back or they wouldn't do [it], right? And what you get from hospice is extraordinary and rich and I think the payback is very high. I hope to ease somebody's way a little bit by showing up. But what comes back is very rewarding," she said.

Hospice clients and their loved ones have access to support including the cancer support group, palliative care community team, educational information, inter-agency referrals and family supports.

To become a volunteer, people must go through a screening process, complete reference and police checks, and receive extensive training. Clients and volunteers are carefully matched. The in-house visits are scheduled with regular visits based on the needs of the clients. Volunteers are not alone. There is support.

Hospice has a number of volunteer opportunities for people: visiting in the home, long-term care, acute care in the hospital, bedside singers, and bereavement support.

Asked about what hospice can offer not readily known by the public, MacLaren said "I think that the community would benefit from knowing that there is grief and bereavement support provided through our hospice program – both in terms of individual and group support. Support can be provided to family members struggling with the illness of a family member at any point of the journey – whether it be learning and supporting their role as caregivers, or coming to terms with [the] imminent passing of a loved one. Hospice volunteers are here to support."

MacLaren said volunteers such as Koskelo make the hospice service what it is.

"We are so very grateful for the commitment of our stellar group of hospice volunteers. Beyond the extensive training they commit to, the value of the role they play in the lives of our community members cannot be fully expressed in words."

For more information about hospice services and other HHHS resources, contact HHHS at 705-457-2941 extension 2932 or visit www.hhhs.ca.

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Dance by D. J. Sassy Sandra

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Plus
additional
prizes
to be given
8:30pm

West Guilford Community Center ATV and Snowmobile Ride Dinner & Dance

Lunar Bloom makes top 100 of CBC spotlight contest

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Lunar Bloom needs your vote to win the CBC spotlight contest with their popular love song, *Sweater*.

Haliburton's connection to indie folk trio Lunar Bloom is Jocelyn Regina, a well-known singing and acting talent, who has performed in open mic nights as a teenager and on the stage for productions in the Highlands Summer Festival at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion.

Daughter of Lauren McInnes and Tom Regina, both well-known music teachers in the area, and a 2008 Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate, Regina has strong roots in the Highlands.

Last week, the Toronto-based band of Regina, Kelly McNamee and Brittany Rae Robinson learned they were one step closer to winning the music contest by making the top 100.

Using a texting thread where they can message each other, the three learned of the good news at the same time.

Although Lunar Bloom was happy to be included as part of the 50 voted for by the public, Regina joked about feeling a little uncertain about why they weren't included in the 50 entrants chosen by a judging panel.

"We were just really happy to be in the top 100 because it felt like the response we were getting on social media, it seemed like a lot of people were supporting us so it was really nice to make it in," she said. "We did have a little laugh. We were like, 'Hmmm, I don't know whether to be like a little insulted that we didn't make it in the producer way' ... but, no, we were actually just really, really thrilled and really feeling all the love from friends and family that took the time to vote every day."

The next step is for the band to make it into the top 10.

Three spots are chosen by the public and seven spots are decided by a panel of



Lunar Bloom has made the top 100 in the CBC spotlight contest. From left, Jocelyn Regina, Brittany Robinson and Kelly McNamee. /Photo by Brendee Green

judges.

The top prizes include a spot with Allan Slaight Juno Master Class and a Juno Awards experience; recording residency at Studio Bell in Calgary, and a CBC Music Festival Performance.

Among the prizes the three-year-old band would appreciate the most, Regina said, is the all-expense-paid trip to be part of Junofest, which includes a performance opportunity, and the week in a recording studio. Studio time is expensive and would help them with their plans to record a full-length album. As of now Lunar Bloom is applying for grants to make studio time a reality.

These prizes, which can only help further the band's career, motivated them to enter the contest, Regina said.

Following graduation from HHSS, Regina went to Oakville where she studied for three years, finishing as musical theatre graduate of Sheridan College, and then went to Glasgow, Scotland where she earned her master's degree in theatre at the Royal Conservatoire.

The three Lunar Bloom members have had a strong friendship, which fuels the band.

They entered the same contest last year with their song *Monster*. It did not advance to the top 100. Regina said from that experience, the band learned they needed a plan, including a concerted marketing effort, employing social media. It also helps they have performed more and garnered more fans than last year, so their social media following is much higher.

"I think that's made a huge difference and that's probably helped us get into the top 100 this year," Regina said.

The band has grown artistically and is in a stronger position than ever before to share the fruits of their labour with people.

"Writing our songs and honing our skills and the performance element of that as well. I do really feel we've been incubating this thing and now we're at a point we have something that we're very proud of and that does feel quite put together and polished and so now what we're

focusing on is trying to share that with people and expand the audience. We're ready for that now."

Regina said the band's future includes raising their profile and performing outside of Toronto more. They're working to expand their audience with gigs in Ottawa, and plan for a tour, possibly Canada's east coast and the U.S.

"One of my biggest hopes is that we can continue to keep Lunar Bloom alive and part of our lives ... as we transition and become parents and our lives get more chaotic in other ways we would really love to just keep this going because it's really creatively stimulated for me, but it's also a really special friendship and relationship that we have together," Regina said. "The biggest goal is to just keep doing it. For it to be successful enough that we can have families and support ourselves and keep the music in our life."

That life includes her hometown.

Lunar Bloom, she said, had its first performance in the Highlands, opening for the Amanda Rheame Trio in Minden only a few years ago. The last time they performed locally was at Rotary Music in the Park in 2018.

Getting to be included in the top 100 is a credit to the band's support, Regina said.

She's thankful to those who voted for the band to earn the top 100 in the second round of the contest. The support has included Canoe FM's Kris Kaddwell, who has been playing their music and telling people to vote.

"There are quite a lot of people [who] have been sharing the video and voting for us. So just a really big heartfelt thank you to everybody for the support," she said.

Follow the band through their website at www.lunarbloomband.com or @lunarbloomband.

See www.cbc.ca/musicinteractives/searchlight to vote for Lunar Bloom before the deadline on Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 2:59 p.m. The grand prize winner will be announced on Thursday, March 5 at 10 a.m.





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Hawks rink crowned provincial champions

The Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's boys curling team are provincial champions, capturing the Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship with a dramatic finish in an extra end final shot by skip Jacob Dobson.

The Red Hawks competed in the 72nd installment of the school provincial championships (formerly known as the Gores) from Thursday, Feb. 13, Saturday to Feb. 15 in Chatham, Ont.

To qualify for the provincial competition, the boys advanced from the zone competition held in Haliburton, Dec. 21, 2019 to earn a berth to the regional competition held from Feb. 1 to 2 in Richmond Hill where they became the A champions, which earned the team a spot in the provincial finals with seven other regional teams. The eight team field were divided into two pools of four, and the competition started with three round-robin, eight-end games on Thursday and Friday. The top two teams from each pool then advanced to the playoffs on Saturday.

The Red Hawks team consists of skip Dobson (Grade 11), vice, Liam Little (Grade 12), second, Corin Gervais (Grade 10), and lead, Owen Nicholls (Grade 9).

In their first game in pool B on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 3 p.m., the Red Hawks defeated St. John's College of Brantford 9-1 after six ends. In their second game, Friday, Feb. 14, Haliburton defeated Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute by a score of 8-1 after five ends. In their third game, the Red Hawks played Glen-garry District High School, who also had a record of 2-0 going into game three. In a close game with three blank ends and five ends with only one point scored, Glen-garry came out ahead with a score of 3-2. With a round robin record of 2-1, the Red Hawks advanced to the playoffs. Based on comparative shot percentage in their position during the round robin, Little and Gervais were named second team all-stars, and Nicholls was named first team all-star.

In the semifinal playoff game Saturday morning at 9 a.m., the Red Hawks faced the hometown favourites Ursuline, winners of Pool A with a 3-0 record. With a full house of local fans cheering

on Ursuline, the Hawks were in control of the game throughout, never falling behind as they won 6-5.

In the championship game on Saturday afternoon at 1 p.m., the Red Hawks faced the Carlton Place Bears. The Hawks dominated the first five ends with a series of steals and were ahead 5-0, but the Bears fought back to take three in the sixth and one in the seventh. The Bears were laying two in the eighth behind the secure cover of numerous guards and looked about to win, when Haliburton skip Jacob Dobson used his last stone to sneak through the field and nudge a Carlton stone enough to hold the Bears to a 5-5 tie in the eighth. In the extra end, the Bears were again sitting two behind numerous guards when Dobson executed a very difficult shot through a small port and finished with just the right amount of curl and the perfect weight to draw perfectly to the button. Victory seemed imminent – until the Bears' skip managed the unlikely prospect of following the same pathway – but with more weight (and therefore different curl) required to displace the Hawks' stone and take over possession of the button – centre of the house. By this time all the other games had finished, but no one had left the building as everyone stopped to watch the dramatic finale. The silence was absolute as Dobson sat in the hack contemplating the daunting shot required. His rock slid through the portal. This time it was the Red Hawks' rock that nudged the Bears off the pin as everyone in the building held their breath waiting to see where each rock would come to rest. It was only when Hawks lead Nicholls raised his arms and shouted, "We won!" that the players and audience exploded in appreciation for the epic battle that ended with three remarkable shots from the skips of each team. Hawks won 6-5. Everyone in the building felt they had witnessed a remarkable event.

As well as the right to display the large Gore Trophy for a year, the boys each received a personal trophy, the coveted Champion's badge, and an Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship jacket.

This is the third year in a row for a trip

to provincial level competition for Red Hawks Dobson and Little. In 2018, the team was fourth in the province at this same competition, and last year, along with Gervais, the team was fifth at the OFSAA Championship.

The team is coached by Darrell Dobson, Hugh Nichol, and Russ Duhaime.

Dobson said, "Hugh Nichol has been running and coaching the youth curling program at the Haliburton Curling Club for seven years, and for the last two years, it has grown to three days a week. He has taught all these boys to curl and deserves credit for their success. So does Russ Duhaime who has also worked tirelessly for years to coach youth curling. In addition, we have been fortunate to have the support of HHSS principal Chris Boulay, who was a leader within TLDSB figuring out how to have Haliburton County students participate in these events in the midst of the ongoing labour dispute. TLDSB policy is that teachers currently are not able to participate in extracurricular activities during the school day, but the team was able to make it work with parent volunteers."

The Hawks curlers have no chance to rest as the Kawartha curling championship runs from Tuesday, Feb. 18 to Wednesday, Feb. 19 in Omemee. The girls' Red Hawks curling team will also compete at Kawartha championship, where they will be supervised by retired teacher, Melissa Stephens.

This provincial team title is one of a few ever won by the Hawks in school history. Previously, the school's curling teams won the Gore provincial title twice, a girls' team in 2014 and a boys' in 2009.

Coach Dobson says, "The whole county can be proud that the new Ontario School Curling Provincial Championship banner will join the two already on the wall at the Haliburton Curling Club."

Submitted by Darrell Dobson

Red Hawks boys' curling team three-peats as Kawartha Champs

Seven curling teams entered the Kawartha High School Curling Championships in Omemee held from Feb. 18 to 19, but the Red Hawks boys' curling team left as the best of the field, dominating their opponents in the final on Feb. 19.

The win came only two days after winning the provincial championship title in the Ontario School Provincial Curling Championship, which included a long round trip drive to and back from Chatham. The Hawks entered play as the defending Kawartha champions and received a bye into the semi-finals on Tuesday.

The weary Red Hawks team of skip Jacob Dobson, vice Liam Little, second Corin Gervais, and lead Owen Nicholls dug deep and defeated LCVI 7-4 in eight ends, earning a trip to the Kawartha finals.

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, the boys won the championship final against I.E. Wel-don, 7-2 when their opponents conceded after six ends.

This is the third Kawartha championship title win for Dobson and Little, and the second win for Gervais. The team, which is coached by Darrell Dobson, Hugh Nichol, and Russ Duhaime, will now represent Kawartha at Central Ontario Secondary Schools Association regional championship scheduled for March 9. The second place finishing St. Peter Saints' curling team has also advanced to COSSA.

COSSA was originally scheduled to be at the Haliburton Curling Club, but due to the TLDSB policy that teachers are not currently able to supervise extracurricular activities during the school day, the event will be instead hosted by St. Thomas in Lindsay.

The Hawks were able to attend the Kawartha championship because retired teacher Melissa Stephens was willing and able to chaperone and coach.

Information provided by Darrell Dobson



Municipality of Dysart et al

135 Maple Ave., P.O. Box 389,
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0
Telephone: (705) 457-1740
Email: info@dysartet.al.ca
Website: www.dysartet.al.ca

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT

- **DATE:** Wednesday, March 11, 2020
- **TIME:** 11:00 am.
- **LOCATION:** Council Chambers at the Municipal Office,
135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS:

1. D13-MV-2020-001 – Consky.
 - The following variances are requested to legalize the location of a dwelling and to permit construction of a deck on a lot in the WR4L zone:
 - a) A decrease to the provisions of Section 5.2 to permit a dwelling to have a minimum water setback of 18.2 metres (60 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 20 metres (65.62 feet);
 - b) An increase to the provisions of Section 3.7(a) to permit an attached deck to extend 5.2 metres (17 feet) into the minimum water setback as opposed to the required maximum of 3 metres (9.84 feet).
 - Location: Part Lot 26, Concession 7, Part 3, Plan 19r-200, in the geographic Township of Dysart, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (1052 Clarion Trail – Drag Lake).
2. D13-MV-2020-003 – Jones.
 - The following variances are requested to legalize the location of an existing dwelling and to permit the construction of a deck on a property in the WR4 zone:
 - a) A decrease to the provisions of Section 5.2 to permit a dwelling to have a minimum water setback of 14.5 metres (49 feet) as opposed to the required minimum of 20 metres (65.62 feet);
 - b) A variance from the provisions of Section 3.7 to permit a deck to encroach 2.1 metres (6.9 feet) into an interior side lot line setback area as opposed to the required 0 metres.
 - Location: Part Lot 24, Concession 1, Lot 22, Plan 565, in the geographic Township of Havelock, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, in the County of Haliburton (1003 Drake Lane – Little Redstone Lake).

ANY PERSON is entitled to attend the hearing in person to express his/her views about these applications or may be represented by an agent for that purpose. If you do not attend the hearing the Committee may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings. The Committee will accept written submissions. **A copy of the decision will be sent to the applicant, the agent and to each person who has filed with the Secretary Treasurer a written request for notice of the decision.**

FURTHER INFORMATION: including specific information about the zone provisions affected by each application, is available from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular office hours (8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday) or by phoning 705-457-1740.

Jeff Iles
Secretary-Treasurer, Committee of Adjustment

Hawks enter Kawartha Championships courtesy of bye

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

A 4-2 loss to end the regular season against the AAA St. Peter Catholic Secondary School is a lesson the Hawks won't soon forget

Coach Jason Morissette said the team will use the loss for a strong push in the coming post-season, as they returned to form executing the team's style of play

against the best team in the Kawartha High School Hockey League.

His message to the team after the game was a reminder about the importance of following through with their system of play.

"Today, we were kind of back to playing, I think, the system that will help us have success. That's really it. It's a positive game and again we got to play so that's at least another thing, right?" he said.

In the team's previous game when they



Red Hawks goalie Darian Maddock covers up down low with a scramble in his crease during Kawartha High School Hockey League action on Wednesday, Feb 19 at the A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton. The Hawks lost 4-2 to the Saints and had goals from Reese Casey and Lucas Haedicke. They were awarded a bye to the Kawartha Championship playoff tournament when Campbellford was unable to have a full team for the one game playoff, scheduled originally for this week./DARREN LUM Staff

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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Stain one's hands
 - 7. Subdivision
 - 10. A passage to be performed slow
 - 12. Invests in little enterprises
 - 13. Medians
 - 14. Member of the giraffe family
 - 15. Makes official
 - 16. Choose in an election
 - 17. Hill or rocky peak
 - 18. Member of an ancient Iranian people
 - 19. Crest of a hill
 - 21. Small, faint constellation
 - 22. Cultivated from crops that yield oil
 - 27. The ancient Egyptian sun god
 - 28. Hollywood tough guy
 - 33. Chinese drums
 - 34. Merits
 - 36. Indicates center
 - 37. Increases motor speed
 - 38. Mentally fit
 - 39. BBQ favorite
 - 40. Wings
- 41. Female parents
 - 44. Marks left from wounds
 - 45. Soften by soaking in liquid
 - 48. They resist authority (slang)
 - 49. Formats
 - 50. Many subconsciousnesses
 - 51. Vogues

CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Mental object
 - 2. Blackbird
 - 3. Undergarments
 - 4. Old cloth
 - 5. One from Utah
 - 6. Greek goddess of the dawn
 - 7. Become less intense
 - 8. Developed to readiness
 - 9. Defunct phone company
 - 10. About Freemason
 - 11. Taking everything into account
 - 12. Famed Czech engineer
 - 14. Impress into silence
- 17. Boxing term
 - 18. Marketplaces
 - 20. Pounds per square inch
 - 23. Locomotives
 - 24. Short musical composition
 - 25. Football position (abbr.)
 - 26. Heavyhearted
 - 29. Denotes particular region
 - 30. Famed NHLer
 - 31. Ingested too much
 - 32. Formulates
 - 35. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 36. Broad, shallow craters
 - 38. Thick cuts
 - 40. Breezed through
 - 41. Breakfast is one
 - 42. "Rule, Britannia" composer
 - 43. Periodicals (slang)
 - 44. Indian title of respect
 - 45. More (Spanish)
 - 46. Creation
 - 47. A loud utterance

Answers on page 14

lost to Holy Cross, it was evident to Morissette that the team got away from executing their system of play, which was a major factor in the loss.

"So, I think we're in good shape if the guys take this mentally forward and think positive. Like I said, we're 2-2 with a AAA school that's got lots and lots of players at their school with an excellent program and I think at the end we just ran out of gas [and started] making some mental mistakes, they capitalized and there's a reason why they're tearing up the league," he said.

He said the Saints are the team to beat. Losing by two goals to the undefeated Saints was better than the rest of the league, Morissette said.

"That team hasn't lost all year ... The single A schools, a lot of the scores have been like 10-1. They've been beating most single A schools by like five goals so I think we did great today. We definitely ran out of gas, but when you look skater for skater they had a whole squad of very good skaters. They all could skate really well. They're all smooth skaters," he said. "At the end, any defensive things in our own end, we were making mistakes at the end that's when they got those two goals."

The Hawks were actually leading 2-0 in the first period before the Saints answered with a pair of their own in the same frame. The home team supporters were rewarded for their attendance with a strong and competitive game. It wasn't until the final minutes of the game when the Hawks surrendered the lead and the Saints added an insurance marker to finish the game. It was clear the Hawks were tired.

A pair of five-on-three powerplays midway through the game came up empty due in part to missing Hawks sniper and the team's leading goal scorer Braeden Robinson, who received a slash in the first period and did not return.

"We were on the powerplay. He beat a guy. Made a move and the guy slashed him real hard," he said. "He's been doing really well on our powerplay. We'll wait and see. Cross our fingers, but he's a key part of our [team]."

Robinson, who is expected to get X-rays, is also one of the leaders, as assistant captain and a senior on the team. The hope is to have him back. Before he was injured, he had hit a pair of cross bars.

Morissette has an appreciation for all of his players.

Many of them have never played this high of a level of hockey before. Some have never even played contact hockey

before this season, he said.

"This is an extreme jump for them. Some of them have not learned about even simple systems about how to play and how to get out of your own end. In terms of high school hockey for me it is the largest learning curve I have ever experienced as a coach. It's been fun in a way. It's not like I can look at these guys and say, 'You already know this.' Some of them just don't know," he said.

He said the players have been open to learning and have adapted to the quicker pace and the sophistication of play. Missing the opportunity to play two games, which were cancelled due to scheduling issues as a result of the labour dispute, he said, really hindered the team's development and took away what could have been momentum builders – he believed the Red Hawks had great potential to beat both teams.

Morissette commended his rookie goalie Darian Maddock, a Grade 10 student, who got the start against the Saints.

"I thought he played really well. I really didn't see a bad goal. All four goals were all defensive breakdowns so it wasn't on the goalie," he said.

Maddock appreciated the opportunity to start and to play in front of family and friends.

"I knew these guys were one of the top ranked teams in the league and I just wanted to play my best and kind of get the team and crowd into it," he said.

On the whole, he said, he played well, even if there were a few areas he'd like to improve.

He said the team has the potential to advance past the Kawartha regional championship tournament as long as the team can execute their systems.

"When we do that we can compete with the best teams," he said.

The Highland Storm rep midget goalie said the Saints are the toughest test he has faced all year.

Playoffs update

A day after the Hawks' loss to the Saints, Morissette contacted media, announcing the team finished fourth out of the nine AA schools in Kawartha. The Hawks earned a bye to the Kawartha Championship tournament on March 3 because the Flames of Campbellford were not able "to field a team for the playoff game this week."

He added the team is looking forward to being able to compete in the championships and will prepare with a pair of practices.

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UPCOMING

Community Events

Want to get your event in Community Calendar? It's free! Contact Pat at classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

St. Pauls Anglican Church, Shrove Tuesday
When: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Where: 19 Invergordon Ave, Minden
Pancakes and Sausages, Dessert & Coffee or Tea
By Donation

Food Handler Course
When: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: Health Unit office (191 Highland St., Unit 310) in Haliburton.
This course teaches participants how to handle and prepare food safely. Upon successful completion, participants receive a certificate (valid for a period of five years) indicating they are registered as a certified food handler. Pre-registration is required. Cost \$40/person. To register, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 5006.

Sexual Health Clinic
When: Wednesday, Feb. 26, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The clinic provides clients with confidential access to cervical screening, low-cost birth control, pregnancy testing and sexual health teaching. Testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections are also provided. For more information, locations or to make an appointment, call the Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577, ext. 1205.

Ripopée by L'Aubergine
When: Sunday, March 1, 2 p.m.
Where: Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, 5358 Haliburton County Road 21, Haliburton
What: Join four hilarious clowns on their whimsical – and sometimes chaotic – journey. A pure delight for all ages. Presented by Razzamataz Kids' Shows! For more info and tickets visit www.razzamataz.ca/shows/ or contact Dawn Mole-Hurd 705-854-0728

Lenten Lunch
When: March 4
Where: St. Paul's Anglican Church
Service at 12 noon. Followed by soup lunch. By Donation

World Day of Prayer, an ecumenical service
When: Friday, March 6 at 1 p.m.
Where: Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, 7 Bobcaygeon Rd. Minden
All are welcome to attend. Refreshments and a short film to follow. Wheelchair accessible.

Minden Legion presents Gord Kidd & Friend, Brad Sales
When: Saturday, March 7, 2020, 2 to 5 p.m.
Where: Minden Legion
Lunch available to purchase from 12-2pm
Meat Draw at 1:00 pm

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, For the Love of our Land – Stories of Conservation
When: Wednesday, March 11, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Fish Hatchery
Hear conservation stories from Peter Dahl, Margaret and Leo Dobrzensky, the Bathe family, and Wayne Krangle. All have provided excellent stewardship of their land and two families have donated their properties to the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust. A partnership with Yours Outdoors Speaker Series. Please register through Yours Outdoors at www.yoursoutdoors.ca.

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Dustin Carey participates in the annual Finnish Lapphund Sledding weekend held from Jan. 24 to 26 on Little Redstone Lake. The event, which was hosted by Ted and Shirley Rule and Lori Rule with the assistance of Diane Geitzenauer, included 31 owners and 26 dogs. /Submitted by Lori Rule

Finnish Lapphunds race again

Little Redstone Lake provided the perfect venue for the third annual Finnish Lapphund Sledding weekend, which took place from Jan. 24 to 26. Ted and Shirley Rule (long-time residents of Little Redstone) and daughter Lori Rule once again hosted the event with the wonderful assistance of their outfitter, Diane Geitzenauer. Thirty-one owners and 26 dogs including 22 Finnish Lapphunds, three Samoyeds, and a Havanese (who some say is a Lappy wannabe!) participated. Folks came from all over Ontario, New York, New Hampshire, and New Jersey to join in this year's winter fun.

Ted and Shirley's fantastic neighbours Karen and Kent Hutchings and Carolyn Trenton were kind enough once again to permit the use of their lovely homes/cottages to help accommodate the guests – and considering that most were expecting camping style accommodations, they were surprised, tickled and very appreciative of the super comfortable facilities they enjoyed for the event.

For those unfamiliar, Finnish Lapphunds (nicknamed "Lappies") are a 7,000-year-old breed similar in looks to the Spitz family of dogs (such as Huskies, Samoyeds, and even the diminutive Pomeranian). They are however from northern Finland and have been used for many centuries as reindeer herders. They range in weight from 32 to 50lbs and have a wonderful double layer coat that is waterproof and suited to 24-7 outdoor living even in the coldest of climates. They come in many colours including cream, brown, black and tan, wolf sable and domino (black, white and grey, very similar to huskies). Lappies are very intelligent, love people and children, and have done very well in agility, barn hunt (searching for rats hidden in secure protective tubes in a barn filled with bales of hay), chase, tricks, herding and, obviously, sled-

ding. While they are very popular as family dogs in Finland, they have only been introduced in any numbers to North America in the last two decades, and there are now an estimated 1,000 in the USA and between 300 and 400 in Canada.

We had two four- and six-dog sleds, two two-dog kick sleds and three snow machines to work with and rotated the dogs through all day Saturday and again on Sunday morning. The track consisted of a ¾ km oval on the lake, prepared in advance for the sledding using the snow machines.

It should be noted that this event could not have taken place without the support of our wonderful breeder Manon Brisebois from Cumberland, Ont., as a large percentage of the participating dogs were from her Maple-Myst breeding program.

A million thanks to Lori Rule who was meticulous in organizing the potluck meals and distribution of people and animals to the various abodes. For the second year in a row Diane G, who has assisted Winterdance at such notable events as the Yukon Gold and Alaskan Iditarod in the past, provided the expertise needed to get our dogs into harnesses, attached to the sleds, and pointed in the right direction.

Needless to say, the event was very enjoyable and included a bonfire, an abundance of food and good company, draw prizes including hand-crafted stained glass Lappy suncatchers, and even the occasional toddy in the evenings. We feel blessed to have such a wonderful family of Lappy owners. We are very much looking forward to the fourth annual in 2021!

Submitted by Ted Rule

Epic battle ends with a loss for Hawks

The season may have ended with a playoff loss for the Red Hawks girls' senior volleyball team, but not without an epic battle during the first round of the Kawartha championship playoffs.

Down two sets in the best of five match against the Kenner Rams, the Hawks found their game, pushing the match to the fifth set with two straight wins. Although the team eventually lost the match with a 15-8 in the deciding set, losing 3-2, the team's coaches Steve Smith and Michelle Backus were proud of the team.

"Their coaches are very proud of the accomplishments and improvements that each of the players demonstrated throughout this tumultuous and difficult season. We wish the graduating seniors all the best and look forward to our upcoming season in November as well as the eight or nine talented juniors moving up," Smith said.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

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- Staff

Student painter sees opportunity in business and mentoring others

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

Rachel Churko has undeniable energy as she talks about the growth she experienced professionally and emotionally since she started leading her crew of painters for Rachel Churko Painting Services under the Student Works Painting banner three years ago.

Now, the 21-year-old Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduate and Queen's University student is celebrating more than \$260,000 worth of painting and staining contracts fulfilled in spring and summer months.

She has been in the top 10 per cent of all the operators in the Student Works Painting company the past two years, earning her the company's President's Club status, which came with the reward of a seven-day trip to Mexico. Looking for more responsibilities and opportunities, she is enjoying her new role as mini-district manager for the company.

At the start of her work, she knew there would be a learning curve. She was ready for the long weeks of work. These expectations were made clear during the application process with the company, she said. She said that was appreciated because the challenges she endured weren't a surprise. A mentor was available for once a week appointments, or more often. Her dad, local tradesman and company owner Steve Churko, was also there for advice.

Putting herself out there, looking for work, knocking on doors was a real challenge, particularly doing it in the dead of winter so she could line up enough work to keep her and her crew painting or staining during spring and into the summer.

"That gets really difficult, you know, when it's snowing and it's minus 30 [Celsius]. All of that," she said. "And then transitioning to calling those customers, who are interested, scheduling estimates with them, giving prices and then following through with the project so it was very difficult. Lots of things to learn. Just a lot of stuff a young university student



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School recent graduate Rachel Churko has enjoyed her experience running her own painting/staining business, which has provided perspective on life. She welcomes clients and prospective employees to contact her. /DARREN LUM Staff

wouldn't even think of."

Challenges include setting customer expectations, training painters and keeping them motivated throughout the summer when high temperatures can be uncomfortable.

"After that at the end of my summer I just realized I really enjoyed leading other people and working for myself and really teaching others. I've always liked leadership. That's always been a big thing for me," she said.

As part of her efforts to become a district manager, she's assumed the role as a mini-district manager, which means she will run her own business, heading up a crew locally, and help mentor and lead four operators (like how she started), who will supervise their crews in four different

regions of Ontario.

If all goes as planned, she will become a district manager the following year when she will be responsible for leading 15 to 20 operators without having to run her own business. With that scenario, this year will be her last working in Haliburton, she said.

Earning the trust of others by being open to collaborate and to listen was a major contributor to her business success, she said. In her new role as a mini-district manager, she follows through with this by having hour-long weekly meetings with the operators talking about everything that they want to talk about.

"As much as I'm a mentor for them in terms of their business, I would love to be a mentor for them in terms of their lives and everything as well. It's just gaining that trust from them and mutual respect and sharing things and just really getting to know them. And once you can do that you can have a better understanding of how their life affects their business and how their business affects their life, right? It's all intertwined there's no way you can separate everything."

She said gaining confidence was crucial to her success despite not having business operation knowledge except for the rudimentary knowledge of her father's private business.

"Going into it I had been around my dad and his shop and things like that, but I'd never worked for my dad or seen anything inside the business world so I didn't know too much. The biggest thing was gaining that confidence to be able to call people up and schedule estimates with them and go to their house. Price jobs for them with confidence [knowing] you're giving them the best price you can and it's fair all the way around," she said.

"Having that confidence to reach out to people I guess would be the biggest thing. Obviously, that grew over my first year when I really saw [from] beginning to end how things worked and then I just knew that I could do it. Obviously being one of the top operators in the company is a big boost, right, for knowing you can do what you're saying you're doing."

Possessing confidence extends to mak-

ing recruiting calls and adding potential crew members.

This coming season she needs crew members.

Churko is busy canvassing and recruiting towards this year's \$175,000 sales goal.

Churko has one semester left to finish her biology degree at Queen's. As a result of her business experience, she has re-evaluated her career aspirations calling business a passion.

"I really like the idea of being in charge of my own success and being in charge of how my life plans out and so I definitely want to kind of continue in that direction and just, you know, knowing everything kind of happens for me or with me is because of me and working towards getting that, being the best that it can be," she said.

She has considered conservation biology, particularly after a trip with Queen's University to Hong Kong last year. The trip allowed her to learn about dolphin and whale research, but it also provided her insight into how science and business can be combined.

During her studies, she learned about consultancy companies, which used their scientific knowledge and expertise to ensure proper practices were adhered to for projects that may have adverse affect on the environment.

"I think that would be really cool to kind of be [involved with] that aspect of ... the business side, giving advice, but also the biology side, analyzing, 'Can we do this without harming oceanic species, environment' and things like that," she said.

That said, she's not 100 per cent certain. Her hope is to return to the place she loves.

"I will definitely [see] Haliburton as my home and I will always come back to visit or live, or whatever," she said.

Her services include indoor, outdoor painting projects, and staining decks in Haliburton County and area. Contact her at her email rchurko@studentworks.com or 705-455-7400 for information or for an estimate.



Masters

Skiers compete during the Masters Ski Race on Friday, Feb. 14 hosted at the Sir Sam's Ski and Ride facility in Eagle Lake. The event included giant slalom and slalom. /Photos submitted by Chris Bishop

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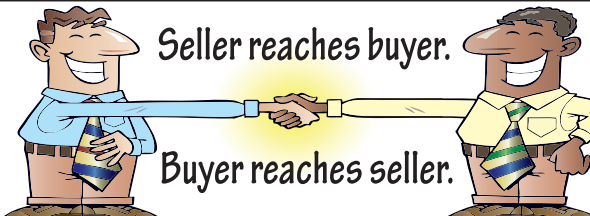
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Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, an accredited agency with the Canadian Centre for Accreditation, identifies needs, provides supports and services enabling residents of Haliburton County to function to their highest potential. This includes a broad range of services including mental health, child development, youth justice and the Haliburton County Youth Wellness Hub.

Point in Time is a charitable, not-for-profit organization that provides a full range of high quality services, delivered effectively and efficiently while promoting innovation and embracing diversity. We believe in the practice of prevention, early intervention, and delivery of services in the least intrusive manner possible. We are partially funded by the Provincial Government, City of Kawartha Lakes, various grants and through the generous donations of Individuals and Businesses.

We are looking for a resident of Haliburton County to add to our professional team of volunteers. Specifically, we are seeking individuals who:

- Have experience in leadership with an understanding of governance
- Have an understanding of financial statements
- Have experience working with not-for-profit organizations
- Have the desire and ability to attend monthly Board meetings
- Can commit to a minimum 3 year term

If you can contribute your time, thoughtfulness and leadership to become a Director please send your cover letter and resume by March 11, 2020 to:

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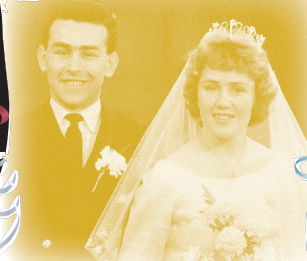
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2020 SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS

Under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216, the County of Haliburton enforces reduced load restrictions on trucks to protect the County roadways during spring thaw, when road damage is most likely to occur.

Restriction on permits issued under the Highway Traffic Act and County By-Law #2216:
As outlined in the Highway Traffic Act and County of Haliburton By-Law #2216, reduced loading will be in effect in the County of Haliburton effective 12:01 a.m. on March 1, 2020.
The actual date of reduced load limit enforcement will be in effect when and where signs are posted. All annual and project permits for moving of heavy vehicle loads, objects or structures, in excess of limits set out in the Act and the By-Law, unless otherwise specified, are not valid on any County Roads during the Reduced Loads Period.
Reduced load limits will be in effect where and when signs are posted.
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On and after March 1st, check the County of Haliburton website www.haliburtoncounty.ca under "Notices" to see when reduced load limits are in effect and when they are lifted. Or consult our new Road Closures App. under the GIS Maps tab.

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When daylight fades.
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In the gold of the twilight glow.
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The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
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Junior football team's season comes to a
pre-mature end in over-time game

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Water rules may shut down B&Bs

LANE CROSSLEY
Staff Reporter

The provincial government's highly controversial Bill 170 was the main focus of this year's annual general meeting of The Federation of Ontario Bed and Breakfast Accommodation (FOBBA) in Haliburton.

Bill 170 is a complex piece of legislation that requires tough new safety standards for anyone who supplies drinking water to the public. The problem for rural bed and breakfasts not linked to municipal water systems is the massive costs involved for water treatment upgrades and annual regular testing. With deadlines for compliance looming, many B&B owners may very well be wiped out of existence.

"It's going to put them out of business," says Garrett Klassen, a bed and breakfast owner who has spearheaded the protest by launching www.wellsafe.net, a website dedicated to changing the government policy. "How can someone who is making \$7,000 a year spend \$10,000 on upgrading their water supply and then another \$1,500-2,500 to test it every year?"

In association with Acrobat
See **B&B** page 16



MARTHA PERKINS/ECHO

Go ahead, make my day

Mary Pearsell looks like she's ready to take on all comers at Friday afternoon's card games at the Haliburton Legion. The annual fundraiser helps the Haliburton Hospital Ladies Auxiliary purchase much-needed equipment for the facility. Watch Mrs. Pearsell in action on page 2.

Plans for new medical centre move ahead

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

A new medical clinic to be built by the municipality of Dysart et al will be able to have a pharmacy but it will only be

able to sell prescribed drugs.

Yesterday, Dysart councillors discussed a proposed zoning amendment that would allow for the construction of a proposed medical clinic on a two-acre property adjacent to the

Haliburton Highlands Health Services site in the village. The project has been estimated to cost \$2 million.

The zoning amendment is needed to allow for the con-

See **Centre** page 19

HHHS balances its books

SHERYL LOUCKS
Staff Reporter

Haliburton Highlands Health Services is committed to turning in a balanced budget this year without cuts to clinical services.

The corporation recently submitted an "interim accountability agreement" for hospital operations to the Ministry of Health.

Keith Sansford, HHHS Chief Executive Officer, recently told the HHHS board of directors that a balanced budget would be delivered through continued administrative efficiencies, modest increases in revenue with no significant impact on clinical services.

Financial officer Cathy Outram said the ministry was using this particular agreement as a way to measure how many hospitals were going to be able to work towards a balanced budget.

She says it has been a roller coaster ride this year when it comes to funding.

HHHS originally thought the government was going to provide \$94,000 for mental health but Outram says the amount is going to be pro-rated. They will be receiving only \$35,000 this year.

There has been more than \$100,000 in new funding this year, which is good news for the corporation. They are not in a position, however, to hire more staff at this time.

"We're in a good position (financially) - better than most (hospitals of a similar size). We can't add (services) but we can maintain what we have," says Outram.

Board member Peter White asked if the ministry was taking into account inflation or the additional energy costs they

See **Retreat** page 3

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